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CONSTITUTION

FOR THE

Government of all Connectional Missionary Societies, Including the Conference and Local Auxiliary Societies of the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society

African Methodist Episcopal Church

Authorized by the Department

J. W. RANKIN, Secretary
Room 62, Bible House
New York

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CONSTITUTION

FOR THE

WOMEN'S HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Article 1.

The society organized September, 1893, by order of the Missionary Department, is hereby formed and established a connectional organization by order of the General Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, May 20th, 1896, at its session in Wilmington, N. C., and shall be known as the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the African M. E. Church.

Article 2.—Object.

The object of this society shall be to aid and accelerate the mission work of the A. M. E. Church. It shall receive and disburse missionary moneys, which shall be contributed by its subordinate societies, branch organizations, private donations, collecting agents or otherwise, as hereinafter provided.

Article 3.

It shall be the duty of this connectional society, or any of its officers or members, to organize at every convenience, conference and auxiliary societies in any of our churches, or residences if convenient; said societies shall report to the Conference or State organizations in which territory they are located. The officers and members thus organized shall report all moneys collected.

Article 4.

The operations of this organization shall be in connection with and subordinate to the Missionary Department of the A. M. E. Church; but in case the said department should be oppressively exacting, the society may appeal to the Council of Bishops, or to the General Conference.

Article 5.

The officers of this society shall consist of a president from each episcopal district, a recording secretary, a treasurer, and an executive committee, to consist of one from each episcopal district, and such other officers as may be found necessary.

Should any member of an episcopal district be absent from a meeting, the president

may appoint one of the officers to represent the absentee.

This shall be the Connectional Board of the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society, which must meet annually at such time and place as the Board may agree upon, or the president or Bishop shall designate in the call.

Article 6.

The duties of the president and the recording and corresponding secretaries shall be such as usually devolve upon said officers; the executive committee shall have power to audit accounts, give directions, propose methods, adjust troubles and make appropriations in the absence of the regular convention. The president shall have power to remove inefficient agents and fill vacancies, subject to an appeal to the regular convention, or to the executive board, when two-thirds of the members are present.

Article 7.

The officers of the connectional society shall be elected annually by the connectional convention, which may consist of the officers of the conference societies, viz.: the president, first vice-president, secretary and

treasurer, or any part of them that may be able to attend; or the conference societies may elect not less than two nor more than five to represent them in the connectional convention. Or if the connectional president shall decide not to call a connectional convention yearly, the executive committee may elect the officers.

Article 8.

The recording secretary shall record all the business transactions of the conventions, or executive committee, in a book kept for that purpose, and read the same on demand. The corresponding secretary shall correspond with the Missionary Department of the A. M. E. Church, missionaries in foreign fields, the secretaries and presidents of the respective conference societies, and report what is being done for home and foreign missions, through the women's connectional papers and such other official organs as the church may have.

Article 9.

The treasurer shall hold the funds of the connectional society, and pay out the same by order of the secretary, countersigned by the president. She shall furnish the missionary department of the A. M. E. Church

with semi-annual reports of all moneys received and appropriated, and her accounts shall be audited at the annual meeting, and her books shall be subject to the inspection of the president, or any connectional officer, at any time desired.

Article 10.

The moneys of the connectional society shall consist of fifty per cent of all moneys raised by the conference societies and other auxiliary and juvenile societies, which shall be forwarded from the said societies to the connectional society once in every three months, or as often as necessary, which shall also be forwarded to the Department of Missions, or may be appropriated to foreign mission fields, and the same reported to the Missionary Department, that due credit may be given and published. But should any of the conference or auxiliary societies forward the fifty per cent intended for our foreign mission work directly to the Missionary Department of the A. M. E. Church, they shall report the same to the treasurer of the Connectional Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society, that proper credit may be given, which should only be done in very rare or emergent cases by the

appeal of the Secretary of the Missionary Department.

Article 11.

While the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society is organized by the women of the A. M. E. Church, persons of good moral character who have a mind to work for the noble cause, may organize special or select societies in halls, parlors, and residences, subject to the rules and regulations that govern other auxiliary societies in the territory of the respective conferences.

Article 12.

The subordinate organizations of the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society shall consist of conference societies, auxiliary societies, and juvenile societies. Constitutions and By-Laws for the government of which will be provided in pamphlet form, while the will of the Bishops is supreme.

CONSTITUTION
FOR THE AUXILIARY SOCIETY

Article 1.

Any number of women may form an auxiliary society within their respective Annual Conference districts, by electing the number of officers required by the constitution as soon as organized and take any name they may choose to adopt, such as: The Bishop Payne Auxiliary Society, or the Frederick Douglas Society, Bishop Brown Society, Bishop Ward Society, Bishop Allen Society, Cincinnati Society, Nashville Society, New York Society, Abraham Lincoln Society, etc. And the corresponding secretary shall forward the names of the officers to the corresponding secretary of the Conference Missionary Society in which they are located.

Article 2.

The officers of an auxiliary society shall consist of a president, two vice-presidents, a recording secretary, corresponding secretary and treasurer who, with three directors,

shall constitute the local executive committee. A librarian may be elected or appointed by the president if the auxiliary desires a literary department.

Article 3.

Any person may become a member of the auxiliary society by paying ten cents on joining the same, and such weekly or monthly dues as the society may adopt by a two-thirds vote.

Article 4.

The president, vice-president, and secretaries shall perform the usual duties of such officers, especially as relates to their duties as defined elsewhere. The corresponding secretary and treasurer of the conference society shall make a quadrennial report to the connectional society at its sitting.

Article 5.

The recording secretary shall keep a true record of the proceedings of the society, and the corresponding secretary shall do the correspondence and notify the pastors when the society desires the use of the church, unless it is understood that they have the use of said church on a certain night or a certain day. The president shall have power

to remove incompetent, disobedient or neglectful secretaries, and appoint others till the regular meeting, when the interest of the society demands it.

Article 6.

The treasurer shall receive all funds from auxiliary societies and receipt for the same. Fifty per cent shall be appropriated at these annual meetings, or, in case of emergency, by the executive board for home work within the bounds of said Annual Conference. Her accounts shall be audited annually and her books kept subject to the inspection of the conference president, or any other officer. But should the treasurer send the fifty per cent that is for foreign missions direct to the Missionary Department of the church through an appeal from the Secretary of Missions, she shall immediately report the amount sent to the president and to the secretary of the Connectional Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society.

Article 7.

The officers should be elected every six months, at the first meeting in June and December, and the names of the officers sent

to the corresponding secretary of the conference society. But when two-thirds of the members present agree, the officers may hold over for twelve months, when an election must be had by ballot.

Article 8.

Auxiliaries societies, in addition to the weekly or monthly dues, may solicit money from the public, give lectures, festivals, fairs, bazaars, literary and musical entertainments, etc.; but in no instance shall ardent spirits or intoxicating drinks be allowed at any entertainment.

Article 9.

The officers and members shall solicit other members for their respective auxiliary societies, and endeavor to interest every female member in our church in the mission work; and wherever consistent, organize other auxiliary societies, whether the persons be members of our church or congregational attendants. Gentlemen may be honorary members, by paying the regular fee, and may speak, but shall not be entitled to a vote in the transaction of any important business.

Article 10.

Auxiliary societies are presumed to send all moneys, both for the home and foreign missions, to the treasurer of the conference society. But they may make special efforts for any particular mission and send the same, should they so desire. And even this must be reported to the corresponding secretary of the conference society. The amount sent to the conference society by the auxiliary for the home department shall be appropriated equally for the purchasing of church lands or for missionary ministers by the conference treasurer or president of said organization at each Annual Conference. The secretary shall be furnished a correct statement by the secretary of the Annual Conference as to the number of missions and members with their financial strength within its bounds. Moneys paid to churches or donated to schools or students for Christian education from localities where said societies abound shall be made only by recommendation of the president, signed by the secretary or president of the conference society when requests are made by written application, and said amounts shall not exceed the fifty per cent belonging to the home department.

Article 11.

Any auxiliary society so disposed may elect a librarian, or the president may appoint one, to collect books, minerals, bones, shells, and various specimens of natural history for the study and intellectual enlightenment of its members. Also, telescopes to examine the heavens, microscopes to examine the objects invisible to the natural eye, and other literary and scientific apparatus, and preserve the same. And members are expected to donate and collect such apparatus for the librarian, and make the auxiliary society a means of general enlightenment as well as an assistance to the cause of missions. Also mothers' meetings may be established where plans and ways for the rearing and bringing up of children, and the care and protection of the poor children of the community may be looked after and discussed.

Article 12.

The auxiliary societies, after meeting and disposing of their regular missionary affairs, shall devote the remainder of their time to reading original poems, lectures upon the various subjects connected with life, and thus carry the Missionary and

Literary Departments together. And any member who shall write, discover, or project anything of high merit shall receive a certificate of commendation, signed by the president and secretary.

Article 13.

This constitution as well as the constitution of the conference societies, may be amended or modified by the Connectional Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society, when assembled in conventional form, but the president shall have power to grant special privileges when desired in the interval of the connectional conventions to suit certain localities.

BOARD OF CITY MISSIONS

An Act to Found City Missions.

Section 1. A Board of City Missions, consisting of all pastors of city churches, with one influential layman from each city church represented, shall be established for the purpose hereinafter designated.

Object.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the City Board of Missions to secure a place of meeting and organize Sunday schools, furnish the same with supplies and officers and teachers from the membership of established churches, and so soon as the time is opportune, shall organize a class and supply the same with a leader.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the City Board of Missions to secure the services of an accredited evangelist, to hold services for the mission, at such time as opportunities may occur after said evangelist shall have visited all parts of the section from house to house, to secure the interest of the people.

Section 4. An Evangelist to be accredited, must be a member of some Quarterly Conference, have character examined quarterly, and shall be required to present to the City Board of Missions a certificate from the Presiding Elder, in whose District said Mission is located, of character and qualification for evangelistic work.